

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

DEPARTMENT OF PURE MATHEMATICS AND MATHEMATICAL STATISTICS

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September 2, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852  
United States of America

Dear Sir or Madam:

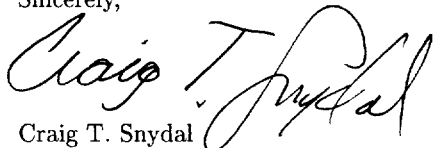
I am writing to enquire about the *Revised Precautionary Measures to Reduce the Possible Risk of Transmission of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) and New Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (nvCJD) by Blood and Blood Products* document (Docket Number 97D-0318) which was recently released by the FDA. I am an American Citizen who has been living in England since October 1995. I see that under the new precautionary measures, I would now be indefinitely deferred from giving blood in the United States. This seems unfair as I am a strict vegetarian who has not eaten meat in any country since 1991.

I have been donating blood every 3 or 4 months since I was 17, and would be very sorry to have to stop giving blood once I return to the United States. Would it be possible for the guidelines to be sufficiently specific to allow me to donate blood? For example, by adding a third question to the "Recommended Questions for Identifying Donors at Risk for Exposure to BSE" (section III,D,1 of the "Revised Precautionary Measures"), which said something like, "Have you eaten Beef in Britain, even once?" My experience with Americans living in Britain is that often many of them became vegetarians when they moved here, so the addition of such a question would probably allow many others to continue to donate blood.

If this type of additional question could not be added, would it be possible for me to obtain some sort of exemption so that I could continue to give blood? I would prefer not to have to lie to any of the "Recommended Questions for Identifying Donors at Risk for Exposure to BSE", but I am most certainly not one of those at risk for exposure - at least not under most generally accepted scientific criteria.

Thank you for your time.

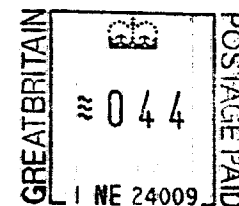
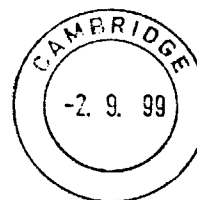
Sincerely,

  
Craig T. Snyder

97D-0318

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**THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**



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